

## Directorate unveils advanced research laser facility

by Rich Garcia, Directed Energy Directorate

KIRTLAND AFB, N.M. — Several hundred people, including local, New Mexico, and congressional representatives, attended a ribbon-cutting ceremony on June 2 for a 29,600-square-foot, \$8.4 million advanced laser research facility.

This state-of-the-art facility will be used by the Directed Energy Directorate of the Air Force Research Laboratory for research and development of chemical, electrical and hybrid lasers.

Among the dignitaries in attendance were New Mexico Lt. Governor Walter Bradley, Albuquerque Economic Development Director Erik Pfeiffer, and Dr. Elizabeth Turpen, legislative assistant for U.S. Senator Pete Domenici who was scheduled to be the keynote speaker but was unable to attend.

A two-story structure, this facility has six major laboratories, three of which are class 10,000 clean rooms and three are class 100,000 clean rooms.. Two of the major labs are dedicated to chemical laser research while the remaining four are for solid-



**A SITE FOR SORE EYES** — The Directed Energy Directorate recently unveiled a new \$8.4 million advanced laser research facility. The facility will be used for the research and development of chemical, electrical lasers.

state or electrical laser work. Also present are smaller laboratories devoted to chemistry and electronics. The facility is expected to house approximately 50 people. @